

**Milford Conservation Commission****Meeting Minutes October 9, 2014**

**Present: Members:** Audrey Fraizer, Chair; Andy Hughes, V Chair; Andy Seale, Becky Lorette, Hub Seward, Janet Urquhart. Kim Rimalover, excused. **Alternates:** Eric Radloff, Greg Boggis, Chris Costantino. Rodney Dellafelice, excused. **Public:** Cameron Fagan, a Civics student to observe a meeting. Suzanne Fournier, BEC.

**Approval of September meeting minutes:** unanimous approval to accept the September meeting on a motion by JUrquhart/ seconded by BLorette

Item	Discussion	Who Will Do What
1. 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday hike	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>September 27 – Tucker Brook AHughes led 6 folks and 3 dogs. Explored North Tucker TF.</li><li>October 25 – Mayflower Hill – AFraizer to lead. Meet at Shady Lane parking area</li></ul>	
2. NHACC annual conference in Laconia	NHACC annual conference – who is going and what sessions	CCostantino will register JUrquhart. Send an invitation to Jake St. Cry, student who is a new trails volunteer.
3. Hitchiner Town Forest	<u>Gates</u> : Installation of locks at the gate and barriers. AHughes presented a sketch of the “Hours” sign for acceptance by the members. He will post this sign on one of the gate posts. <u>Fields</u> : AHughes has staked the areas to be mowed by DPW. He will notify Chris Anton that the stakes are in place.	AHughes will install combo lock for DPW/Police use. Keyed lock for neighbor gate opening. CCostantino will find town ordinance that allows the commission to set hours at the town forest and send to the members.
4. Tucker Brook Town Forest Timber Harvest	An <u>Intent to Cut</u> has been filed.	Letter of confirmation to the Cabinet. AFraizer will tweak AHughes’ letter and send to CCostantino who will send to the Cabinet
5. Brox NRI	Review Forest Bell proposal	Work session on October 20 at 6:00. CCostantino to send out reminder. <b>See below for the summary of the discussion.</b>
6. Merging Rotch Properties	meet with Planning Board to ask for their approval/acceptance RSA 674:39a. See RSA language at bottom of agenda	Planning Board will discuss this merger at their October 28 meeting. CCostantino made a mistake stating that the PB meeting was on October 14. CCostantino will send out a reminder email.

7. Warrant Articles – Tina needs them by November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land fund request - \$30,000</li> </ul>	CCostantino will incorporate comments from the members in the warrant article draft
8. Trails Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Graffiti at Mayflower Hill TF</li> <li>b. Steve Erdody met with Brian Zahn about the gates at Mile Slip</li> <li>c. Rotch WP TF – beaver dam beaver flow device grant from NH Animal Rights League</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. AFraizer will try to remove the graffiti at Mayflower</li> <li>b. CCostantino will recontact Brian Zahn for quote for gate construction and installation</li> <li>c. CCostantino will write a thank you note to Nick Darchik for writing and winning the grant for a free beaver flow device installation at Rotch. AFraizer will sign a final copy of the NH Animal Rights League contract for the installation of the beaver flow device at Rotch.</li> </ul>
9. Mile Slip Easement	AFraizer has been working with the New England Forestry Foundation.	AFraizer will have an easement for review at the November meeting
10. Future work sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Long Range Plan for the rail trail</li> <li>Prioritizing lands for conservation measures</li> </ul>	
11. Upcoming Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>October 10-12 Pumpkin Festival</li> <li>Oct 18 SV Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>October 24-26 Ghost Train Rail Trail Race</li> <li>November 1 NHACC annual conference – Laconia</li> </ul>	

### Work Session

Interdepartmental review	None this month	
Beaver Management discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rotch</li> <li>Rail Trail</li> <li>Brox</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AFraizer will request that the commission be included in the town decision about lowering water levels that are influenced by beaver</li> </ul>

		<p>activity. SFournier reminded the commission about RSA 210 about beavers and the wetland buffer ordinance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Rotch WPTF will have a beaver flow device installed by Skip Lisle sponsored by the NH Animal Rights League. This will control the water levels so that the beavers have sufficient habitat to thrive and the commission can provide a satisfying trail network for passive recreation.</li> <li>• The members decided, after discussion, to retain the “Dickerman” pond and the “Halstead” pond. The Rock will continue to be the “Rock” marsh with the visible meander of West Compressor Brook.</li> </ul>
Non-public session: RSA91-A:3 IIa		

#### **Brox NRI –**

Purpose of the NRI is to identify which portions of the property should be protected. The commission will make recommendations to minimize development impacts on the property. The NRI will provide supporting documentation for these recommendations.

#### Goal

The commission wants to protect the wetland function and the trails while accommodating competing uses of the property

#### Questions/Comments

1. Can the property be graveled without losing the conservation values of the property?
2. The NRI may be funded from the land fund
3. Is there a need to rush – reissue the RFP in the winter for a larger pool of applicants which would lend itself to vernal pool id’n and evaluation in the spring/summer season
4. Should be done quickly in preparation for warrant article presentation and discussion
5. What is the grandfathered extent of the gravel pit
6. The property should be studied as one large property as the wetland functions are not restricted to designated use zones.
7. Field Assessment line item of the proposal should be limited by “hours not to exceed” rather than \$1500.
8. Check for funding from other departments which will benefit from this NRI
9. There are questions to be asked of the contractor:
  - a. When will inventory be done to identify potential vernal pools
  - b. Who will be doing the inventory and how will it be done – grid? Assessment from maps?

- c. How long will the staff be in the field
- d. How much data will be from the existing maps and studies and how much from field studies
- e. Request that the field notes be presented along with the finished report
- f. What is the lifetime of the quote

A motion was made by JUrquhart/ seconded by BLorette to accept the proposal from Forest Bell Environmental contingent upon information gained from a phone interview with Forest Bell by ERadloff, AFraizer, AHughes, and ASeale. There will be a work session on October 20 at 6:00pm to discuss the results of the phone interview. CCostantino will send a reminder email of the work session.

**Next Regular Meeting – November 13, 2014 @ 7PM, Selectmen's Meeting Room.**